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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-third session
Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS SUBJECTED TO ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT, IN PARTICULAR: TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

Report of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Nigel S. Rodley, submitted pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/37 (B)

Addendum

Visit by the Special Rapporteur to Venezuela

Corrigendum

Paragraph 61, second sentence

At the end of the sentence add (over 400 per cent above capacity).

Paragraph 64

Add the following text to the end of the paragraph:

As for the Juvenile Division of the Judicial Police in Coche, the Special Rapporteur was informed by its management that minors were kept there, in theory, for a maximum of eight days, after which they were either released or sent to special centres run by the INAM. However, if there was no room available in the INAM centres the minors remained at the Division, leading to situations where over 100 minors could be kept in four cells with a total capacity of 40. For the same reason, instead

of eight days they could remain there for up to two or three months. When the Special Rapporteur visited the Division there were 43 minors who had been there for less than eight days. What struck the Special Rapporteur about their situation was the total absence of activities, either physical or intellectual, foreseen for them, as well as the fact that, except for very brief periods, they remained locked all day long in cells with no daylight, no furniture at all, not even bedding, and no personal belongings. Security reasons were given to justify this situation since, according to the management, any object could be used by the minors to hurt each other.